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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, October 25, 2018

***Location:*** Norton High School Library

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher (6:43 p.m.), Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Daniel Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representative Cooper Smith.

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded by Norton Cable Access for public record.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Cohen stated that, for the record, if there were ever questions during School Committee meetings that members of the audience were welcome to raise their hand, state their name and address, and ask a question.

***Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

***Warrants:***

Mrs. Stern reported that she reviewed and approved the following warrants, to be entered into the public record:

- October 11, 2018 \$519,495.03
- October 15, 2018 \$ 88,488.38

***Student Representative Update:***

Cooper Smith addressed the Committee regarding school events:

- HAY had its first student of the month assembly; Trunk or Treat event on October 26<sup>th</sup> put on by the PTO
- At NHS: Student Council hosting open house for 8<sup>th</sup> graders; Global Education information fair coming up, Semi-Formal on November 16<sup>th</sup>; and vaping presentation on Monday
- Sports: Unified Basketball team doing great won first home game; Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer made it to tournaments and Golf ended with 13-5 record.
- NHS supporting student in Franklin by wearing nail polish on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

***Opening of School Report – Norton High School – Ms. Lisa Giuliano***

Ms. Giuliano stated that despite numerous transitions such as a new schedule and new administration, the opening of school went very smooth and the overall climate was supportive and positive. There are 72 teachers/staff members and 723 students. NHS is very excited about the addition of computer science and robotics classes as well as senior seminar electives. Fall Sports has gotten off to a strong start with the volleyball team qualifying for the state tournament for the first time since 2014. Boys soccer hasn't lost a game since opening night; golf qualified for the state tournament for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row; and Unified Basketball team won the first home game of the season. Ms. Giuliano thanked the custodial and grounds staff for having the buildings and grounds in top shape.

Ms. Giuliano introduced the following new staff members and gave a little background about each: Dan Demers – Spanish and French teacher; Karyn Denningham – Math; Caroline Martell – English; Jennifere Skowronek (new to NHS, from NMS) – Business and Technology; Rob May (also from NMS) – Wellness; Julie Smith (from NMS) – Special Education; Rebekah Marchilena – Science; Cate Nesbitt – Guidance Counselor; Christine Fay – English teacher; Ryan Pratt – English teacher; Matt Knippel – Music teacher/director; Kerri Murphy – Computer Science Teacher; Jennifer Proulx – Guidance Counselor; Kathleen Gonsalves – Para; Jennifer Toombs – Para; and Aaron Roy – Para. Cheryl Benkart custodian from HAY moved to NHS and Chris Nolan new custodian at NHS.

Ms. Kerri Murphy did a short presentation regarding a recent Robotics class trip to Boston to the robotics company, Vecna, during Hub week. It was fun for the students to have lunch at the restaurant Spyce where everything is prepared robotically.

***Vote to Approve DECA Trips for 2018-2019 School Year – Mrs. Heather Albritton and Students:***

Mrs. Albritton, DECA Advisor, introduced Action Team Members Allison Janinch and Zeina Delgado who informed the Committee of the following DECA conferences being held during the school year:

1. All DECA members will be attending the District 8 DECA Competition at the Hyannis Inn and Conference Center from January 10-11, 2019. This is an overnight competitive conference. Last year 80 students attended. Final numbers of students participating this year will be determined after results of membership drive. Heather Albritton, Rachel

Pilotte, and Jennifer Skowronek will be the advisors attending this conference, along with other chaperones to be named based on need.

2. DECA students who qualify in the Top 7 of the District 1 Conference will qualify to compete at the MASS DECA State Competition which will be held March 7-9, 2019. Jennifer Skowronek and Rachel Pilotte will be the advisors attending this conference.
3. ICDC Conference in Orlando, FL will be held April 25-May 1, 2019. Students ranking in the Top 4 of the state competition are qualified to compete at this conference. Heather Albritton, Rachel Pilotte or Jennifer Skowronek will chaperone this national conference.

The students also talked about their experiences last year at the DECA competitions. DECA and Special Olympics are involved in a joint fundraiser, selling Lancer Yeti tumblers to help defray costs.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve DECA trips for 2018-2019 School Year

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Grade 6-12 Cell Phone Usage Policy/Practice – Dr. Baeta:***

Discussion ensued regarding the use of cell phones and the policies at NMS and NHS. Mr. Goldstein reported to Dr. Baeta that there weren't many issues regarding cell phone use at NMS. Ms. Giuliano said that there were few reports of misuse of cell phones at NHS. Any issues were dealt with at the classroom level. Teachers say that students feel less stressed not having phones with them at all times. Mrs. Cohen said that students need to "unplug". Mr. Savas said that the NHS policy is good but that the NMS policy was poorly worded and needs to be more in line with actual practice. Dr. Baeta will go back to NMS to relook at policy as far as realigning it to the NHS policy and will come back to the Committee with clarity.

***Transportation Update – Mr. Matthew Wells:***

Mr. Wells updated the Committee on NPS transportation. Route times were in good shape as one road construction project finished up and one due to be finished early in November. There are 1,514 registered for busing of which 531 were required to pay fees. 91% of outstanding fees have been paid with 30 on payment arrangements (approximately \$6,000 outstanding) and 32 that owe and privileges will be revoked. There was discussion about late payment charges as well as policy clarification going forward would be revisited after first of the year.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to establish November 1, 2018 as the date that riding privileges be revoked for students with unpaid transportation fees

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries



***Social Emotional Learning and Trauma Sensitive Schools Report – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:***

Mrs. Sullivan introduced members of the SEL Committee and thanked them for their work. Members of the Committee presented a video and Powerpoint presentation regarding Social Emotional Learning Committee Report of Findings and Next Steps. Mrs. Sullivan stated that there were so many volunteers that they were not able to take everyone. There was a book study and over 40 staff members took part. Dr. Baeta stated that whole idea and how it came about has been copied by other districts.

The Committee expressed how proud and impressed they were of the District and recognized the amount of work being done. Dr. Baeta gave kudos to the entire team. He stated he had one of his best days since being a Superintendent. He met earlier in the day with his Student Advisory Committee comprising of 14 NMS and NHS. The students were honest and true about issues and expressed anxiety about competition and influences.

***Global Service Learning Tour Information and Vote – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:***

Mrs. O'Neill spoke about the two approved Global Service Learning Tours. In April 2019 a trip is planned to Italy (Venice, Florence and Rome) and in the Spring of 2020 a trip is planned for Paris and Barcelona. Dr. Kefor has asked for approval on the Peru's Mountain Villages tour which offers cultural immersion and leadership development for students. This is a 10 day trip and will be in the Spring of 2020.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Peru Mountain Villages Global Service Learning Tour in the Spring of 2020

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Strategic Planning Committee School Committee Membership – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee of the all-day Strategic Planning Committee session to be held on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at NMS from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The committee will comprise of community members, parents, and staff. The purpose of the session is to recycle the current Strategic Plan to make a new one for 2019 – 2022. Dr. Baeta asked for one or two School Committee members to attend and serve on the committee. Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Gallagher each volunteered.

***Wellness Committee School Committee Membership – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta stated that as part of regulations, a School Committee member must be voted in to serve on the Wellness Committee. The committee makes changes to wellness policies and can address issues such as vaping. Mrs. Gallagher volunteered.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to elect Mrs. Gallagher to the Wellness Committee

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Vote on MASC Board of Directors Resolutions (from Other Business):***

Resolutions, as approved by the MASC Board of Directors, were discussed and the Committee took votes regarding each resolution. Mrs. Stern, as representative for the Norton School Committee, will bring results to MASC annual meeting in November.

**Resolution 1: Rejecting the Arming of Educators**

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Not Support Resolution 1

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 2: On Small and Rural Districts**

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Support Resolution 1 by amending and striking 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, "That MASC oppose legislation or unlegislated regulations that would attempt to undermine the right of any city, town or regional district to have imposed upon it a mandate to restructure, expand, regionalize, or dissolve its school district without its consent."

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 3: Elimination of the Federal Department of Education**

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Support Resolution 3

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries (Mr. Savas left meeting at 8:13 p.m.)

**Resolution 4: Regional School Transportation**

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Support Resolution 4 by amending and changing it to include all schools

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 5: Regarding Reporting and Accountability Standards**

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Support Resolution 5

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 6: Regarding Reproductive Health Education**

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Support Resolution 6

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 7: On Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy**

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Support Resolution 7

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 8: Relative to Sports Wagering**

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to take No Action on Resolution 8

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

**Resolution 9: Relative to Access to Information for Parents and Students Who Are Clients of Special Education**

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to take No Action on Resolution 9

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries (Mrs. Stern left meeting at 8:27 p.m.)

***Lesley University Partnership – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta shared information on a professional development opportunity that will be provided to staff as part of the SEL/Trauma Sensitive Schools initiative. The program will be provided by NPS through Lesley University. Four courses will be offered providing 3 grad credits per course. A minimum of 15 people in each of two cohorts is needed. (Cohort 1 is PreK-5 and Cohort 2 is Grades 6-12). Courses will be offered at no cost to teachers through utilization of funds provided by Town Meeting in October for professional development.

***Other Business:***

Mrs. Cohen thanked the Board of Selectmen for their recent support of educational funding.

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

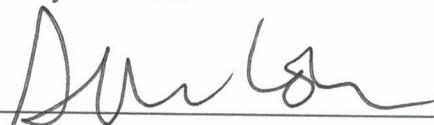
**The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.**

***Documents and other exhibits used at meeting:***

- School Expenses Summary sheets from October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 15, 2018
- Memo to School Committee from Dr. Baeta regarding Grades 6-12 Cell Phone Usage Policy/Practice
- Powerpoint presentation on Social Emotional Learning Committee Report of Findings & Next Steps
- EF Educational Tours information sheet on Community Development in Peru's Mountain Villages
- Resolutions as Approved by the Board of Directors of MASC
- Lesley University sheet on Impact of Trauma on Learning courses

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 29, 2018 – 6:30 pm at H. A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.  
Secretary Pro Tem

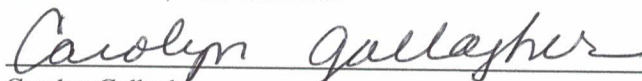


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Sheri Cohen, Chairman

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Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman

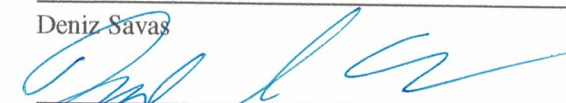


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Carolyn Gallagher

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Deniz Savas



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Daniel Sheedy

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